

REFERENCES

- ANONYMOUS, (1915): XXXII—Decades Kewensis Plantarum Novarum in Herbario Hortii Regnii Conservatarum Decas LXXXVI Kew, *Bull.* 1915: 344-350.
- BACKER, C. A. & BAKHUIZEN VAN DEN BRINK, R. C. (1965): *Flora of Java*. vol. 2. Netherlands.
- BEDDOME, R. H. (1871): *Flora Sylvatica of Southern India*. vol. 1. Madras.
- (1874): *Icones Plantarum Indiae Orientalis Madras*
- CHOUDHURI, A. B. (1967): Studies on the Meliaceae of India and neighbouring countries. *Bull. Bot. Soc. Bengal* 21 (1) 1: 1-24.
- GAMBLE, J. S. (1915): *Flora of the Presidency of Madras*. vol. 1. London.
- (1918): Notes on the Flora of Madras. *Kew Bull.* 1918: 222-228.
- HARMS (1940): Family Meliaceae in Engler & Prantl. *Pflanzenfamilien* (ed. 2) 19b: 138-148, Berlin.
- WIGHT, R. & ARNOTT, W. (1834): *Prodromus Florae Peninsulae Indiae Orientalis*. London.

39. TWO NEW COMBINATIONS OF THE GENUS *ASEMANTHIA* (STAPF) RIDLEY (RUBIACEAE)

Mussaenda Linn., one of the established genera of Rubiaceae with a number of species, is well characterised by one of the calyx lobes being usually deciduous and forming a large petaloid white or coloured leaf like structure. A closely related genus *Acranthera* Arn. ex Meissn. is referred by the more herbaceous form of the plants than the typical *Mussaenda* Linn. but was merged to *Mussaenda* Linn. by Baillon (1880) while Schumann (1891) maintained it as a distinct species. Later Stapf (1894) recorded it as a well marked genus after the exclusion of the species like *Acranthera maingayi* Hk. f. and *A. griffithii* Hk. f. Simultaneously he (l.c.) has proposed a new Section *Asemanthia* Stapf under *Mussaenda* Linn. considering the taxa of *Acranthera maingayi* Hk. f., *A. griffithii* Hk. f. and *Mussaenda mutabilis* Hemsl. which differ in the bushy straggly growth of the plants, absence of enlarged calyx-lobes and finally the long corolla tube. Ridley (1940) has elevated it to a distinct genus with distribution to Malay Peninsula and the islands of Borneo but nearer to Indian *Mussaenda* Linn.

His treatment is as under;

Asemanthia maingayi (Hk. f.) Ridley in *Kew Bull.* 1940:600.1940; Basionym: *Acranthera maingayi* Hk. f. in *Fl. Brit. Ind.* 3:92. 1880; Synonym: *Mussaenda mutabilis* Hemsl. in Hook. f. *l.c.* Pl. 18: t. 1718, 1887; *Mussaenda maingayi* (Hk. f.) Stapf in *Trans. Linn. Soc. (Sr. 2)* 4: 172. 1894.

King (1903) has described a new variety *hirsuta* under *Mussaenda mutabilis* Hemsl. on the basis of densely velvety nature of stem and under surface of leaves especially along the nerves. Ridley (1923) has also described one more variety *montana* under this same taxon based on dwarf compact nature of the plant with smaller leaves. On examination of these varieties we suggest as *Mussaenda mutabilis* Hemsl. belongs to the genus *Asemanthia* (Stapf) Ridley, a new combinations for the two taxa as:

Asemanthia maingayi (Hk. f.) Ridley var. ***hirsuta*** (King) Sinha et Mitra comb. nov.;

Basionym: *Mussaenda mutabilis* Hemsl. var. *hirsuta* King in *Jour. Asiat. Soc. Beng.* 72(2): 182. 1903.

Syntype: Perak, King's collector 225 (CAL); Malacca, Derry 253 (CAL).

Asemanthia maingayi (Hk. f.) Ridley var.
montana (Ridley) Sinha et Mitra comb. nov.;

Basionym: *Mussaenda mutabilis* Hemsl. var.
montana Ridley in Fl. Mal. Peninsula 2:58.
1923.

Type: Malacca, Mount Ophir, Padang Batu,
Ridley 3215 (CAL).

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
INDIAN BOTANIC GARDEN,
HOWRAH-711 103,
February 22, 1980.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank to Mr. K. Rammurthy, Dr. G.
G. Maity and Mr. G. S. Giri for valuable sug-
gestions and help.

A. K. SINHA
B. MITRA

REFERENCES

BAILLON, H. E. (1880): Rubiaceae in *Histoire
des Plantes* 7: 257-546. Paris.

KING, G. (1903): Materials for a flora of Mala-
yan Peninsula XIV (*Mussaenda*). *Journ. Asiat.
Soc. Beng.* 72(2): 181-187

RIDLEY, H. N. (1923): The Flora of the Malaya
Peninsula 2: 58-59. L. Reeve & Co., London.

——— (1940): Notes on some Malayan

Rubiaceae. *Kew Bull.* 1940: 593-613.

SCHUMANN, K. (1891): Rubiaceae in A Engler
and K. Prantl's *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfam.* 4
(4): 1-156. Leipzig.

STAPE, O. (1894): On the flora of Mount Kina-
balu in North Borneo. *Trans. Linn. Soc. (Sr. 2)*
4: 69-263.